

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A bicycle sprocket adapted to rotate around a rotational axis, wherein the sprocket comprises:

a sprocket body having a first side wall surface that faces in a direction along the rotational axis, a second side wall surface that faces in an opposite direction along the rotational axis, and a radially inner surface that faces radially inwardly and is disposed between the first side wall surface and the second side wall surface when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis;

a plurality of teeth extending radially outwardly from the sprocket body and dimensioned to engage a bicycle chain;

~~a spline that originates from and extends radially inwardly from an innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body, wherein the innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body extends in a direction of the rotational axis above the spline and also extends circumferentially to form a radially outwardly extending spline circumferentially adjacent to the spline, wherein the spline terminates in a radially inwardly facing free end;~~

~~wherein the spline includes a radially outer surface facing radially outwardly; and~~

~~wherein the radially outer surface of the spline faces the innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis~~

a radially inwardly extending spline disposed between the first side wall surface of the sprocket body and the second side wall surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis;

a radially outwardly extending spline disposed between the first side wall surface of the sprocket body and the second side wall surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis;

wherein the radially outwardly extending spline is disposed circumferentially adjacent to the radially inwardly extending spline;

wherein the radially inwardly extending spline has a free end portion that extends in the direction of the rotational axis and is disposed between the first side wall surface of the sprocket body and the second side wall surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis;

wherein a radially outer surface is formed on the free end portion of the radially inwardly extending spline;

wherein the radially outer surface is disposed between the first side wall surface of the sprocket body and the second side wall surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis; and

wherein the radially outer surface formed on the free end portion of the radially inwardly extending spline faces radially outwardly and faces the radially inner surface of the sprocket body.

CLAIM 2 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 3 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the ~~innermost peripheral~~ radially inner surface of the sprocket body is substantially straight in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 4 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the ~~innermost peripheral~~ radially inner surface of the sprocket body is substantially parallel to the rotational axis.

CLAIM 5 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the sprocket body ~~has a side wall that~~ includes a first side wall portion and a second side wall portion, wherein the plurality of teeth extend radially outwardly from the first side wall portion, and wherein the second side wall portion is laterally offset from the first side wall portion.

CLAIM 6 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 5 wherein the second side wall portion overlaps the radially outer surface formed on the free end portion of the radially inwardly extending spline when viewed in a direction parallel to the rotational axis.

CLAIM 7 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 6 wherein the second side wall portion is ~~spaced apart~~ offset from the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 8 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 6 wherein the radially inwardly extending spline is offset from the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 9 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 5 wherein the radially inwardly extending spline extends from the second side wall portion, ~~and terminates at the free end,~~ and wherein the free end portion of the radially inwardly extending spline is ~~spaced apart~~ offset from ~~[[a]] the first side wall of the first side wall portion that faces in a same direction as the free end surface in a direction of the rotational axis.~~

CLAIM 10 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the sprocket body has a side wall that includes a first side wall portion and a second side wall portion, wherein the plurality of teeth extend radially outwardly from the first side wall portion, and wherein the second side wall portion and the radially inwardly extending spline together form a composite spline.

CLAIM 11 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 10 wherein a thickness of the radially inwardly extending spline in a direction of the rotational axis is greater than a thickness of the second side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 12 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 11 wherein a thickness of the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis substantially equals a thickness of the second side wall portion in the direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 13 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): A bicycle sprocket adapted to rotate around a rotational axis, wherein the sprocket comprises:

- a sprocket body;

- a plurality of teeth extending radially outwardly from the sprocket body and dimensioned to engage a bicycle chain;

- a spline extending radially inwardly from the sprocket body, wherein the spline has a root portion and a radially inner portion, wherein the root portion extends radially inwardly of the sprocket body and has a side wall facing in a rotational direction, and wherein the radially inner

portion extends radially inwardly of the root portion and has a side wall facing in the rotational direction;

wherein the spline originates from and extends radially inwardly from an innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body that forms an adjacent radially outwardly extending spline, wherein the spline terminates in a radially inwardly facing free end; and

wherein a thickness of the radially inner portion of the spline in a direction parallel to the rotational axis is greater than a thickness of the root portion of the spline in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 14 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 13 wherein the sprocket body has a side wall that includes a first side wall portion, wherein the plurality of teeth extend radially outwardly from the first side wall portion, wherein a thickness of the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis substantially equals a thickness of the root portion of the spline in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 15 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 16 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim ~~15~~ 1 wherein the plurality of teeth are one-piece with and extend radially outwardly from the sprocket body.

CLAIM 17 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 18 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 13 wherein the plurality of teeth are one-piece with and extend radially outwardly from the sprocket body.